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# The Voice

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Algona High School

Edited by: Megan Crosser & AJ Wagner

January 13, 2012

## All of the lights

Sawyer Brandt

New Year's Eve is one of the biggest holidays in the U.S. In New York City, it gives people the opportunity for a huge celebration. In Times Square, over 1 million people gather to watch the ball drop at 11:59. Not to mention, millions of people watch it on their televisions around the U.S. and even more people watch it all around the world.

Other major celebrations around the world included fireworks in Moscow's Red Square. Crowds popping champagne corks at midnight on Paris' Champs-Élysées Boulevard. A four

mile stretch of the strip in Las Vegas was shut down and eight of the major casinos shot off fireworks. Atlanta, Georgia, drops a giant peach instead of a crystal ball. Sydney had a very large pyrotechnic display.

Around the area of Algona, there were not as big of celebrations as New York, but many still celebrate. Students of AHS went out on town that night, while others, like Jeremy Black, stayed at home. Jeremy says, "It was a fun bonding time to spend with my mother rather than my friends."

## Presents, family, and much more

Taylor Setzer

Christmas vacation is officially over and students are getting back into their routine of school. This year students started break on Thursday, December 23rd. After two weeks of busy activities, the students came back on Wednesday, January 4th.

Many kids did fun and exciting things over Christmas break. Gavin Meyer and some of his friends went skiing for a fun-filled day on December

26th. Jace Taylor traveled to Arizona to watch the Hawkeyes play in the Insight Bowl on December 30th. Maddie Priebe stayed home for her vacation and spent time with her family and friends. Dylan Cink spent his Christmas vacation with friends and practicing basketball with his team.

When Jordan Lee was asked about his vacation, he said, "I wish it would never end!"

## Say goodbye to 2011!

Rachel Feuring

2011 was nothing short of an interesting year, from the drama in the media to the new comers at Algona High. Some things you might remember in the entertainment world are: Bieber fever, Amy Winehouse's death, the Royal Wedding, and Charlie Sheen's maniac meltdown. Major movies of 2011 include: *The Muppet's*, *Warrior*, *Thor*, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, *Fast Five*, *Bridesmaids*, *Drive*, *Transformers*, and anything 3D.

In this past year, music has been more debated than ever. But the rising stars and old stars left the year with great music. New albums came from Kanye West and Jay-Z. Rihanna went completely bad. Britney Spears made her come back. Drake and Lady Gaga topped the charts.

2011 was a big year for technology. Steve Jobs' death was a shock to the Apple community. All the major Internet companies were at war with who could come out with cloud technology first. The iPad 2 fad, using your phone to pay bills, apps, and Apple's Siri voice command all were hot this year.

The legal part of 2011 was interesting with the Casey Anthony trial striking a cord with America. Jacob Lampman says, "It's been an eye-opening year because I started off at WCLT and came to Algona. I made a bunch of awesome new friends."

So much is to come in the new year of 2012, so make this year even better than last!

## We Bought a Zoo!!

Megan Crosser

*We Bought a Zoo* is based on a true story involving a man whose wife had past away and left him with his two children.

Benjamin Mee (Matt Damon) plays the father with his two children, Dylan (Colin Ford) and Rosie (Maggie Elizabeth Jones.) His life hasn't been going as he hoped after his wife past away. To top it off, his son has gotten expelled. In hopes for a new start and a better future, he goes house hunting. When he finds the perfect house for their small family, there's a catch, it comes with a zoo.

After moving in and starting to turn the zoo into a public attraction, Ben, the dad, runs into financial trouble and with the inspection just weeks away, the zoo staff starts to question Ben's ability to afford to run this zoo.

The movie can get very emotional. To find out what happens to the zoo and Ben's family, go see the PG rated movie at the local State 5 Theatre. The movie will be released on DVD and blue-ray in April. "I can't wait to go see it," said Kelsey Crosser.

## The Hot Zone

Kuleen Parsons

In Advanced Biology, the students recently read a book titled *The Hot Zone*. The students read this book because they are learning about virology.

The book is about a highly infectious virus from the Central African rain forest. This virus suddenly appears in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. There is no cure for this virus. After a few days, 90 percent of its victims are dead. A secret military SWAT team of soldiers and scientists is mobi-

lized to stop the outbreak of this exotic "hot" virus.

*The Hot Zone* tells this dramatic story, giving an exciting view on how this virus gets into the human race. It is frightening to see how *The Hot Zone* proves that truth is scarier than fiction.

This terrifying story was written by Richard Preston. Courtney Schmitt says, "This is a great book." So sit down and take the time to read *The Hot Zone*.

## Switched at Birth

Tashia Lemus

This TV show series tells a touching story about two beautiful young girls who were mistakenly switched at birth. The TV series is very intense and interesting.

Bay Kennish grew up knowing nothing but wealth and private schooling. Daphne Vasquez lost her hearing when she was a child due to a case of meningitis. She grew up in a poor neighborhood with a poor, single mother. Bay lived

with everything handed to her and Daphne got the hard end of the stick of life.

One day everything came to a dramatic head when both families had to learn to deal with situations and struggles for the sake of the girls.

The show is on every Tuesday at 9 pm, on ABC Family. You can also watch full episodes online at [abcfamily.go.com/shows/switched-at-birth](http://abcfamily.go.com/shows/switched-at-birth).

## Where's the snow?

AJ Wagner

This winter has been one to remember. There has been some snow but not much. The weather actually has been nice and comfortable outside. On December 31, the evening started out raining and into the night came a terrible storm, where it went from thundering and raining to a complete snow storm where you couldn't see 10 feet in front of you!

This weird weather is going to make things difficult for farmers this spring. They need moisture in the

ground for the crops to grow, and the little rains and snow spits aren't going to work.

*The Farmers' Almanac* says that the winter of 2011 - 2012 is supposed to have an average snowfall. It also stated that in later January there'll be blizzard-like conditions. Jordan Lee said, "We need more snow, it just doesn't feel right without it!!"

## The playoffs have begun

Mike Vandy

The playoff games have begun and already there have been major upsets. The 2012 NFL playoffs started on Saturday, January 7th, and hosted the Texans vs the Bengals and the Lions vs the Saints.

The Texans beat the Bengals in a shocker 31-10. This is the first playoff win in team history for the Texans and is the first playoff berth. The Saints handed the Lions a ticket home as they beat them 45-28.

Sunday had exciting games as the Steelers faced the Denver Broncos as well as the Giants vs the Falcons. The Giants beat the favored

Falcons' team 24-2. In the game of the night, the crowd saw the Steelers come back from a 20-6 deficit and tie it at 23-23. In overtime, the Broncos got the game winner on the first play of the drive.

Next week, the Broncos travel to Gillette Stadium to face the Patriots in a week 15 rematch. The Packers face the Giants, the Saints face the 49ers, and the Texans face the Ravens. These teams are fighting on the road to get to Lucas Oil Stadium on February 5th, 2012. Good luck to all the teams involved.

## Winter festivals

Emily McFarland

It winter time and that means fun in the snow (whenever it decides to come). But winter doesn't meant just snow, it also comes with some fun activities. Here are a few fun activities that are close by.

### January

The Snow Sculpture Contest January and February 2012. Build whatever you want, then call the Algona Recreational Department to come take a picture! Top 3 sculptures will be awarded prizes provided by Subway. This event is open to all families in Kossuth County!

Winter Games in Lake Okoboji, Iowa. Lots of activities for the whole family! Includes: broomball, softball, and flag football on

ice. Other activities include indoor golf, a Freeze Yer Fanny Bike Ride, a wienie toss, a chili cookoff, and fireworks at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. January 27-29.

### February

Winter Dance Party in Clear Lake, Iowa. The Surf Ballroom marks the 53rd anniversary of the plane crash that killed Buddy Holly with concerts, luncheons, dance lessons, and crash-site tours. February 1-4.

Frostbite Olympics in Algona, Iowa. This festival features snowmobile rides, ice races, snowball softball, and a treasure mountain for kids. February. 17-18.

Algona and the towns around are not the only ones having winter fes-

## Bowl games

Bronson Jergenson

This year's college bowl games had some great highlights and some close calls. One game everyone wanted to see was the rematch of #1 LSU and #2 Alabama. Last time these two played, it was a field goal frenzy.

Some other match ups were Michigan vs Virginia Tech. They both played a really hard game but Michigan ended up pulling this win off with a 23-20 win. Virginia Tech didn't give up their defense and didn't let the quarterback for Michigan (Robinson) get a big play off like he is known for.

Wisconsin vs Oregon was also a big talk. Oregon came out looking flashy, like always, with their new helmets. They both played a game worth watching. The

ending score was 45-38 with Oregon on top.

This year's championship game came from #1 LSU taking on #2 Alabama. The last time these two met in the post season there wasn't a single touchdown made. Alabama's defense did a great job with holding LSU to only 92 total yards of offense and only letting them on their side of the field four times. They also didn't give up a single point to LSU and came away from this bowl game with a 21-0 win. Dylan Cink said, "This game was very boring!"

tivals. Here are some that area a little further away.

Jack Frost Fest in Spooner, Wisconsin. There's turkey bowling, minnow races, dog sled rides, watercolor snow painting, and a 4K snowshoe race in this western Wisconsin town. January 14.

Flack Out Festival in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. Watch snow-sculptors compete, take pony rides, walk an ice maze, and see fireworks January 20-22.

Winter Carnival in St. Paul, Minnesota. Carvers create glittering ice sculptures in Rice Park, and there are two big parades: the Grande Day and the Torchlight. January 26-February 5.

City of Lakes Loppet in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For recreational skiers, the highlight of this big festival is the Saturday night Luminary Loppet around Lakes of the Isles, with glowing ice pillars and "ruins." There's a tent party with music afterwards. On Saturday, there are also ski games and races for children, a snow-sculpture contest, and bicycle and skijoring races. On Sunday, there's a 10k tour, a 25k classical race, and a 33k freestyle race, all starting in Wirth Park and ending in town. February 4-5.

So enjoy this winter, there are plenty of activities to get involved in. Go out there and get involved.



# Shoot for a score!

Jessica Mueller

The Algona High School girls' basketball team is second in their Conference. They played against Clarion Goldfield, winning 43-38. Junior Rachel Teague led with 12 points followed by junior Paige Yi with 10 points.

The girls then went on to play Webster City on December 9th. The final score of the game was 47-31. Jade Simpson led with a total of 10 rebounds, 7 of which were on defense. Heather Ziesman followed with 8 rebounds.

On December 13th, the AHS girls played Eagle Grove, winning 67-26. Sophomore Tangy Wiseman and junior Heather Ziesman both led with 3 assists.

Right: Sam Lipps goes up for a shot against Hampton-Dumont.



Left: Tangy Wiseman drives to the hoop against Eagle Grove.



Photos by Jim Gale

# Sports

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# Wrestling!

Jeremy Black

AHS wrestlers traveled to Eagle Grove on December 1st. The final score was 60 to 24!

December 3rd they traveled back to Eagle Grove for an invitational. Algona walked away in 7th place with a total of 97 points. Freshman Joe Teague was the top place winner for Algona.

They put up a good fight against Clarion on December 8th, but lost 47 to 15. The Dogs came back against Humboldt and won 30 to 28 that same night.

# On a roll!

Dylan Cink

The boys' basketball team now has a record of 5-5 after wins over both Hampton-Dumont and Garner-Hayfield.

Against Webster City on December 9th, the Bulldogs lost by a score of 51-48 in overtime. Samuel Lipps had 27 points in that game.

Against Eagle Grove on December 13th, the Bulldogs won by a score of 61-34. Sawyer Frideres had 9 points.

Then, the Bulldogs played St. Edmonds away on December 16th. The Bulldogs lost by a score of 53-68. Sam Curtis had 11 points.

Next, the Bulldogs lost on December 20th against Bishop-Garrigan 57-64. Sawyer Frideres had 7 rebounds in that game.

On January 3rd, the Bulldogs lost to Humboldt by a score of 60-61. Cole Nielsen had 2 rebounds in the game.

The Hampton-Du-

At the Martin Family Invitational, they took 3rd. Algona had three wrestlers earning individual titles: Kory Kuecker at 138 pounds, Joe Teague at 170, and Nick Buchanan at 220.

All in all, the Algona/North Sentral Kossuth wrestling team is tearing up the competition! Next meet for the Dogs is the Ankeny Tournament on January 14th.

mont game was on Friday, January 6th, at Algona High School. It was a close game all throughout the game, but Algona came out victorious with a nice 53-49 win. Sam Curtis ended up with 9 points while Cole Nielsen grabbed down 4 rebounds.

The very next day, Saturday, January 7th, the Bulldogs went to Garner-Hayfield High School to take on the Cardinals. In another close game, the Dogs got the win with a score of 47-44. In this game, Samuel Lipps went on to have 14 points and 4 rebounds. Sawyer Frideres also chipped in 6 points and 3 rebounds.

The next game for the Bulldogs is on Friday, January 13th at home against Iowa Falls-Alden.

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## Dorian Honor Choir

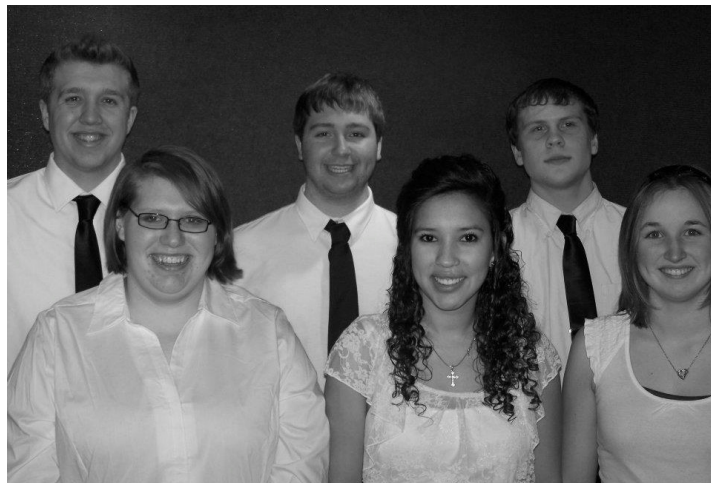
Scott Haas

On Saturday, January 7, three AHS students left to go to Luther college's Dorian Honor Festival. There the students spent the entire day learning three songs. The students were a part of the Dorian Chamber Choir. The AHS students who attended were Scott Haas, Emily Banwart, and Alex Harms. The students then spent Saturday night on campus, staying with members of Luther's Nordic Choir.

Sunday morning, January 8, three more students came to join in the Dorian Festival Choir. Those students were Hunter Buscherfeld, Amanda Hib-

ner, and Krystyna Diggins. The six students practiced all of Sunday learning four songs. After the day's practice, students were able to sit and watch a concert put on by the college. After the concert, the students stayed on campus with choir members housing them for one more night.

On Monday, January 9, the students woke up and began practice at 8:15. After another day of practice, the students finally had their concert Monday night. AHS students were six of 1,200 students. The concert featured the Dorian Chamber Choir, The Festival Choir, and The Nordic Choir.



Above: Dorian Honor Choir members pose for a picture. Hunter Buscherfeld, Amanda Hibner, Scott Haas, Emily Banwart, Alex Harms, and Krystyna Diggins.

## Early graduation

Emily McFarland

Many AHS students have graduated early over the years. Whether you're a junior or senior, you can graduate early but it takes hard work to get there.

There are two options when graduating early. There is the 36 credits, "core diploma," early graduation and the 44 credits. The 36 credits is sooner and easier to get, but there are a few downfalls with that. With the 36 credits, you don't get to walk across the stage or receive scholarships. You do not get your diploma until your class is scheduled to graduate.

With the 44 credits, you would need to have all of your 44 credits done by the end of the first semester of your senior year. You then graduate at the end of the semester that you complete your coursework. You

would also have to talk to Mr. Cecil and do an early graduation application. But unlike the 36 credits, you would get to walk across the stage and can receive the local Foundation scholarships. Students would still have to apply for these scholarships the same as everyone else.

Early graduates for this year include: Bronson Jergenson, Emily McFarland, Clarissa Laubenthal-Barnett, Meridith Heinold, Kaci Postma, Janelle Wittenberg, Bryana Dodd, Klint King, Zach Craig, and Taylor Vanderschaegen.

So if you are interested in graduating early, talk to Mr. Cecil, Mrs. Stein, or Mr. McLaughlin and see what you have to do.

# School News

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## Algona High School Scholarships

Katie Riley

As everyone knows, seniors at AHS have one more semester of school left and then they are out of high school for good! A lot of seniors have been applying for scholarships and some have received scholarships for different colleges. A scholarship is defined as a grant or an award given to students to attend a specific college. Senior and student at AHS, Dylan Cink says, "The scholarships that our school foundation has to offer are very good!"

AHS is very proud of their students every year and wish every senior the best in the future years.

The Foundation scholarships at AHS are due on April 13, 2012. Ev-

## Pat Fogarty

Celeste Smith

Mr. Fogarty graduated from West Bend High School and Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. Fogarty decided to be a teacher in his second year of college. He has been teaching at Algona High School for eight years and teaching in general for nineteen.

Fogarty started teaching right out of college. In Fogarty's teaching career, he has coached football, baseball, track, and basketball. He enjoyed coaching football the best and now helps Mr. Bormann with speed training.

Including the science classes he teaches now, Fogarty has also taught math. In fact, his favorite class he has ever taught was pre-calculus.

Fogarty has a wife

ery year the Foundation gives over \$500,000 worth of scholarships! The Foundation scholarships include the Thompson, Mahana, Hoenk, and Sefrit. Some requirements for these local scholarships is a recommendation, application, FAFSA, and folders with signed and accepted information. Students must reapply for these scholarships every year of college in order to continue receiving money.

There are many different scholarships available as well. Be sure to check out the guidance counselor's office for more scholarship opportunities. Also see one of the friendly guidance counselors for help!

and four kids and enjoys spending time with his family. He has never doubted that he wanted to teach and enjoys the interaction with the students. Fogarty's favorite part about teaching is how interesting it is to watch kids grow up from freshmen to seniors!



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## Spotlight on Alissa

Janet Hofmann

Alissa Catherine Zwiefel is a senior at Algona High School. The 18-year-old was born on October 20, 1993, and lives in her home by Fenton with her mother and father, her 13-year-old sister, Mallory, and their two dogs, Taffy and Rikky. Alissa also has two other sisters, Jackie and Nicole. Alissa is the aunt of Rhylee, Nicole's son.

Alissa currently works at Exceptional Opportunities in Burt with the Direct Support Staff. She just started working over Christmas break but enjoys the job so far. At E.O., she assists the intellectually disabled with their daily living.

When Alissa isn't working, she enjoys playing solitaire on her new iPod Touch, and she loves to play a game of sudoku in the book she stores in her purse. She is also entertained by many other types of puzzles, playing the piano, and working out at the Y!

Her favorite class is band because she loves making beautiful music. Her favorite sport is volleyball, and she started varsity for the Bulldogs this year as a right-side hitter.

Alissa's future plans are to go to a cosmetology school, though she is undecided where she wants to attend. Later in life, she hopes to become a missionary and help out the less fortunate. She wishes to live in

a big, white farmhouse with five kids, have a farmer for a husband, and have many different kinds of livestock.

When asked to describe herself in three words, Alissa said the first thing that popped into her head: lion, dolphin, and emu. What she meant by that is left open to interpretation.

Alissa's favorite color is purple. Other favorites include *Walk the Line*, "Indian Outlaw" by Tim McGraw, and pulled pork sandwiches. Alissa doesn't like meat, but she treats "all meat equally," but favors pork over the rest of the meat family.

If Alissa were a superhero, she would have the power of invisibility so she could go places she's not supposed to. Messy people and irresponsibility (not taking credit for when you make a mistake) are things that really make her angry.

Alissa also enjoys the outdoors. When asked why, she said, "I'd rather be in the middle of nowhere than surrounded by people and pollution."

